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TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1885.

Constitutionality of the Blair Bill.

We have no interest in the BLAIR bill except such as is felt by thousands of other Democrats. We are anxious that the Democratic party of Virginia shall enter the campaign preceding the election of this year for Governor with unfettered limbs. We desire that the success of that party shall not be put in doubt by any unwise action on the part of their candidate for Governor, or of the convention which is to nominate him.

A real statesman, we may say in words borrowed from another, takes a practical interest in things that are, not an emotional interest in things that might be. The question of the constitutionality of the BLAIR bill we regard as settled. The Federal Government has given to the new States untold millions of acres of the public lands. A gift of those lands differs in no way, so far as the question of constitutionality is concerned, from a gift of money.

Much of the land was bought by the United States Government, and paid for out of the National Treasury. The Hon. J. L. M. CURRY well says that an argument intended to draw a distinction between the constitutionality of a law giving away land and the constitutionality of a law giving away money hardly merits serious attention. The fact is, that every State in the Union has been the recipient of public lands, and has sold those lands and used the money.

Virginia has two institutions of learning within her borders which have thus become beneficiaries of the liberality of the Federal Government. Whilst the lands turned over to Virginia for educational purposes were undisposed of, almost every college in the Commonwealth, if not every one, petitioned the Legislature that the money thus received from Uncle SAM should be bestowed upon it. The western and north-western States have grown wealthy on Federal bounty. Their schools have been so richly endowed that they are models of schools, at the same time that the people of those States have been relieved from untold millions of dollars of taxation.

Is a question of constitutionality never to be considered as settled? Shall the southern States of this Union still deny the constitutionality of Mr. LINCOLN's proclamation of war? Shall they still deny that there is a "National" Government? Shall they still maintain that the Federal Government has no right to coerce a State? Shall they longer deny the power of the Federal Government to appropriate money out of the National Treasury for the improvement of rivers and harbors? Shall they deny the power of the Federal Government to distribute the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the States, forgetting that the old Whip party, headed by Mr. CLAY, claimed, long before the war, that the Federal Government did possess this power?

It seems to us that it would be just as wise to raise the question of constitutionality in any one of those cases as in the case under consideration. If it is a violation of the Constitution to appropriate money out of the Federal Treasury in aid of the public-school systems of the several States, then the Constitution has been violated over and over and over again—times without number.

There is another reason why the constitutionality of the BLAIR bill should be regarded as a settled question. It is to be found in the fact that the ablest constitutional lawyers in the United States Senate voted for it. Mr. GARLAND, who is to be the next Attorney-General of the United States, and who is considered the ablest lawyer in that body unless Mr. EDMUNDS is the ablest, voted for the BLAIR bill. Mr. EDMUNDS, who is the ablest lawyer in that body unless Mr. GARLAND is the ablest, is a supporter of the BLAIR bill. Hon. J. L. M. CURRY has a national reputation. Nearly thirty years ago (we beg his pardon for making him out to be so old) HORACE GREELEY singled him out amongst all the young congressmen from the South as the most promising. He is in favor of the BLAIR bill. Senators VANCE, RAMSON, JONES, GEORGE, LAMAR, HAMPTON, JONES, BROWN, COLQUITT, and other men whose opinions on such a question smaller men might well afford to accept, all these say the BLAIR bill is constitutional.

Yet Virginia is asked to raise the question of constitutionality on the BLAIR bill. She is expected to bring over auto-bellum arguments and auto-bellum prejudices "from before the flood." She is gravely appealed to to stand forth in the rage and rage of a past generation. Is this manifesting a practical interest in what is the real state of things, or an emotional interest in what would be the state of things if Mr. CALHOUN and Mr. YANCEY could rise from their graves and dictate the policy of the National Government?

Deputy Marshals.

Mr. HAINES' paper still talks as follows:

"The *Register* of yesterday published a list of honor—the deputy marshals of Marshal Lot Wright. There never was a more righteous thing done than the employment of that little army."

Will you be of the same opinion if in 1886 the Democrats appoint ten thousand deputy marshals in your city and pay them out of the Federal Treasury to assist in electing a Democratic Congress? Marshal WRIGHT appointed one or two or three thousand, and we are not sure as to the exact number. But the right to appoint one thousand implies the right to appoint ten thousand, there being in the infamous law passed by a Radical Congress to secure the election of Republican congressmen no limit whatever put to the number of deputies whom the marshal may appoint. Now, we again ask the *Commercial-Advertiser* if it will be in favor of the appointment two years hence of Democratic deputy marshals in such force as to amount to bribery and corruption? A voter is approached and offered a deputy marshal's place and five dollars a day, provided he intends to vote the ticket which the marshal intends to vote. This is the worst sort of bribery. It is bribery effected by the use of the money of the people whose candidates are to be defeated by its use. It is bad enough for a man to employ his own money in bribing voters; but to employ the public money for this purpose is still worse.

It is just as certain as that day follows night and night day that the employment of Federal deputy marshals and supervisors to control the elections of congressmen will, if persisted in, result in the utter destruction of our free institutions. And if the Republicans in the present Congress refuse to repeal all these objectionable laws, they may expect to have the poisoned chalice commended to their own lips in 1886 and 1888. The Democrats will not allow a law to remain upon the statute-book to be used under Republican Presidents and disused under Democratic Presidents.

Three Points Gained.

The Providence (Rhode Island) *Journal* devotes considerable space to the statistics of Richmond as presented in the *Dispatch* of the 1st of January. After admitting that "the great majority of the people of the North know only vaguely the condition of the South"—and this admission is a point gained—it says, in commenting upon the *Dispatch*'s religious table:

"There are some figures given in detail, at which one is, at first blush, staggered. As for instance, we find colored churches credited with contributions of from two to six thousand dollars each; and with three, four, and five, and seven hundred Sunday-school scholars each."

This should certainly satisfy the *Journal* that the man and the brother is not down-trodden and kept upon starvation wages.

The *Journal* then turns its attention to our school statistics, gives the figures showing that there are more white scholars in the public schools than colored scholars, cites the percentage obtained by the pupils at the final examination, and adds:

"It is only apparent—we state it as a fact, and not as a criticism—that the number of teachers for the white children is largely greater in proportion than for the colored children. This may perhaps be accounted for in part by the age and attainments of the colored children, and by their not attending as regularly as the white children. Again, it appears that up to the point so far reached there is no substantial difference in the capacity and industry of the two races, because with the lesser number of teachers in the colored schools, and the presumably more moderate qualifications of the colored teachers, the slight deficiency in the colored attainments can easily be accounted for. We do not find any statement showing the relative amount of money spent upon the two races in proportion to numbers."

Barring the *Journal*'s well-known theory about the mental capacity of the negro, that paragraph is, on the whole, another point gained. It shows, with the first quotation we make from our Providence contemporary, that we have accomplished something by hammering away at it. We have succeeded in convincing it that the negro has some rights that the white man of the South respects—the right to worship God after the dictates of his conscience, the right to make money and spend it as he may choose, and the right to get an education at the expense chiefly of the white tax-payer. Yet, as usual, the *Journal* yields before it is hurt. When it says "we do not find any statement showing the relative amount of money spent upon the two races in proportion to numbers," it intimates a suspicion that the negro is discriminated against. Well, the *Journal* is letting itself down easily and we will not quarrel with it for that. It has taken several terrible "draps" since we first knew it, and must naturally be a little sore. But for far its implied suspicion might mislead others, we would say that in the matter of school-money white and colored are on an absolute equality in respect to benefits. The *Journal* says: "We are very glad to have these statistics." That is a third point gained, and encourages us to hope that before the first of next January we will have convinced the *Journal* of the fact that a negro can vote as he chooses in the South without incurring the risk of having his brains—what the white people are taxed to cultivate—scattered around promiscuously through the instrumentality of a double-barrelled shotgun.

THE NEW SOUTH.—The reception extended to Mr. Randall in the southern States is at once complimentary to the visitor and most creditable to his entreaties.

Mr. Randall deserves to be well-received by American citizens, and especially by Democrats, wherever he may go. He has rendered valuable party service, and has proved faithful to his public trusts. His record shows him to be a firm, uncompromising opponent of jobbery and the consistent advocate of honesty and economy in the management of our public affairs.

Although Mr. Randall's visit is a personal matter and has no political significance, the manner in which he has been received affords gratifying evidence of the changed condition of the South. Twenty-five years ago, if a hot-headed leader of the "chivalry" had denounced the contemplated visit of a northern gentleman as an "invasion," intended to "humiliate" the South and to "insult" prominent southern men, does any one believe that the visitor would have been received with open arms?

It is to be regretted that there should be still a few foolish, frothy persons, who have not advanced with their section and learned the lesson of moderation and toleration by which their States have so signally profited. It is to be regretted that a single voice should be found in that section resorting to the old fire-eating methods of denunciation and personal abuse to combat opinions difficult of refutation by argument.

If Mr. Randall should propose to visit New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, which would be thought of a public journal in either of those States who should rail at the ex-Speaker as an "invader" and charge him with all manner of political tricks because it did not approve his protection theories?—New York *World*.

If Mr. RANDALL'S visit shall have the effect of convincing such persons as Mr. WATKINSON that the voluntary incidental-protectionists in the Democratic party are as much entitled to the honors and emoluments of the Democratic party, and to leadership in it, as the involuntary incidental-protectionists, we shall all be hereafter a united, happy party family.

Defining His Position.

As we on Sunday styled our friend of the State an "involuntary incidental-protectionist," we cannot but allow him to define his own position. He does it clearly in the following article, which, however, we read through the expectation of seeing him run against a snag. But he didn't. He landed safe. We quote:

"It is necessary to add but little to what our friend in the *Dispatch* says. This we do further, however, we may say in explanation of the relative position of protectionists and revenue-tariff men. They present themselves to us in this wise: The extreme protectionists who hold that protection is the object and revenue is the incident; another class of protectionists who think a tariff should have both objects, protection and revenue; another which asks for a tariff for revenue with incidental protection, protection being subordinate yet by no means to be disregarded, and moderate protectionists, who, in the expectation of seeing him run against a snag. But he didn't. He landed safe. We quote:

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ALMOST AT DEATH'S DOOR.

Chief-Justice Waite's Dangerous Illness.

A Washington special to the New York Times says: Chief-Justice Waite has been very ill for more than six weeks. Last summer he was stricken with paralysis, but recovered sufficiently to give his physical and mental restoration. About two months ago, however, he was attacked by a severe cold, which has been followed by a considerable period he has been confined to bed, and recently no one save his family physicians have been permitted to see him. His family are deeply distressed, and his friends are anxious to see him. The most intimate friends of his final recovery. The utmost they expect is that he may linger for a few months. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State, will undoubtedly be nominated for Chief Justice. If Chief-Justice Waite should have a lucid interval sufficiently long to enable him to resign, and continue to draw full pay, he would not be entitled to receive his pay. If he should not resign or die before the 4th of March, it is understood that Mr. Justice Bradley, who has reached the age at which he can retire and continue to draw full pay, will resign to make way for Mr. Frelinghuysen, who was on August 4, 1884, sixty-seven years old. In less than three years he would reach the age of retirement, but the law requires ten years of service to qualify for retirement on pay.

If Chief-Justice Waite should not resign and live until after the 4th of March his successor, in all human probability, would be nominated by President Cleveland. In that event Mr. Justice Field would perhaps be made Chief Justice. He was sixty-eight at the 4th of March, 1884, and would be eligible for retirement November 4, 1886. Should Justice Field be promoted to the chief-justiceship, the vacancy thus created on the bench would probably be filled by the nomination of Mr. James W. Carter, of New York city, or Augustus H. Garland, senator from Arkansas.

Mr. Justice Miller, during the incapacity of Chief-Justice Waite, is acting Chief Justice. It may be his duty to administer the oath of office to President-elect Cleveland on the 4th of March next.

Foreign Notes.

F. G. Kikander, a Finnish clergyman, is in Michigan looking for land on which to place a colony of 3,000 Finns.

Truth, of London, affirms that 1,541 out of 3,887 magistrates of petty sessions in Ireland never attended at all last year, that 1,434 attended five times or less, that 25 attended 40 times, and that only 23 attended 50 times.

The museum in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris received, a fortnight ago, a whale which had been killed in the Mediterranean, near St. Tropez, by a custom-house officer, who shot it in the head near the shore. It was sixteen feet long, and was cut into pieces and then preserved in spirits.

The Marquis Guell y Rente died a few weeks ago in Paris. He was the uncle-in-law of King Alfonso and a man of letters. He has written verse, history, and prose fiction. His literary works are numerous. He was a member of the Académie Française, and the same may be said of his collection of old American legends and his account of the discovery of the remains of Columbus.

Thomas Smithson, who died a fortnight ago at Bromley, in England, had served in the Peninsula campaign, and had fought at Waterloo. He entered the army at eighteen years of age, and in 1819 received his discharge. Two of his grandsons served in the Crimean war, and a great-grandson is now serving in India. One of the grandsons fell at the siege of Sebastopol.

About forty years ago a servant in Ireland was enabled, through the help of her master, to emigrate to Australia. In fifteen or twenty years she had saved nearly \$10,000, and on her death she left it to her only son, and, in the event of his death without issue, to her late master's heirs. Her son died without issue, and her late master's heirs recently made good their title to the \$10,000.

The country residence of Mme. Albani at Ville d'Avray, which was robbed two weeks ago, is an elegant structure named by its owner, Cenerentola. It contains a vast number of ornaments of the singer's career, among them busts of composers in whose pieces she has appeared. Nearly all the stolen articles are *souvenirs*, the value of which to the owner far exceeds their intrinsic worth.

The collection of pictures, cabinets, and articles of *art* left by the late Christopher B. Denison, of London, will be sold at auction in June next, the sale occupying, it is believed, twenty-one days. Mr. Denison, during the last years of his life, was well known in all the leading auction-rooms of London. He is known to have expended in his purchases upward of \$1,000,000. At the Hamilton sale, in 1883, alone he spent about \$400,000. He was the purchaser of the famous "Daniel in the Lions' Den," by Rubens, for which he gave close upon \$25,000.

The Hocking-Valley Troubles.

[By telegraph to the *Dispatch*.]

COLUMBUS, O., January 5.—The striking miners had control of the wire in Hocking Valley Saturday night, and issued a false order for running a special train from Buchtel to Straitsville, which, if it had not been discovered, might have resulted in great damage and probable loss of life, as a collision would have occurred if it had run as ordered. Reports are that the wire being tampered with again. The Bristol tunnel is still on fire, and it is thought its destruction will be complete, and that several months will be required before transportation can be resumed.

Memphis' Broad Preparation.

A VALUABLE ELEMENT.

Dr. M. H. Henry, the noted family physician of New York, says: "The use of Professor Horsford's Broad Preparation offers admirable means for the introduction of a valuable element into the system with the food of every-day life."

DOCKRATINATION.

It is dangerous and hurtful. Offers large losses are sustained for want of prompt action. Putting off for the future, lets give you a bit of advice: For the past three weeks we have announced day by day that we are going to retire from the clothing field of Richmond. This is our last announcement, and the coming week positively the last week—SATURDAY the 10th instant our last day.

Don't put off any longer buying what you need in our line. Our goods are FRESH, STYLISH GOODS—as good as can be found in any clothing-house in the city—and we are selling at cost, which means that you can buy a SUIT, OVERCOAT, or PANTS for your own or boy at the actual wholesale cost. No freight; no expense account added. Positively bargains from the word go.

EVERYTHING AT COST IN MEN'S SUITS, IN MEN'S OVERCOATS, IN MEN'S TROUSERS, IN YOUTH'S OVERCOATS, IN YOUTH'S SUITS, IN BOYS' OVERCOATS, IN BOYS' SUITS, IN CHILDREN'S SUITS.

CLOSING-OUT SALE.

MISFIT STORE.

1301 MAIN STREET.

[Ja 4-31]

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ROTHWELL & CO.,

505 EAST BROAD STREET.

THE LEADERS IN LOW PRICES AND LIBERAL TERMS.

would like to call your attention to the fact that they will positively sell their fine stock of

FURNITURE, CARPETS, OIL-CLOTHS, RUGS, MATTING, ETC., HEATING AND COOKING-STOVES, AT REDUCED PRICES FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS MONTH before taking stock.

It will pay you to visit them. The prices will suit, and the terms they will make satisfactory.

Call and see them without fail, if you want bargains.

ROTHWELL & CO.,

505 EAST BROAD STREET.

[Ja 6]

HOLIDAY GOODS.—Don't buy your Christmas presents until you see our latest articles.

Chairs, Desks, Hanging and Standing Lamps, Easels, Mirrors, Florentine Statues, Tables, Pedestals, and many other articles in connection with one of the largest and best-selected stock of Parlor and Chamber Suits to be seen in the city. You can save money by examining our stock and comparing prices. J. C. HATHORN, 1111 East Main Street, 12 and 14 Governor street.

FURNITURE, MATTRESSES, &c.

And Bedding.—The largest stock of FURNITURE, &c., of all descriptions, at wholesale and retail prices, for cash or on time, by purchasing before giving me a call. Largest business largest stock, and greatest facilities for the delivery of orders. Satisfaction guaranteed. WILLIAM DAFRON, 1436 and 1438 East Main Street and Governor street, 4 West Broad Street. Factory and upholstery-room, 18 to 24 North Third street.

CHINA, GLASSWARE, &c.

HAPPY NEW-YEAR.

I still have a nice lot of PRESENTS suitable for the holiday festival, and lots of STAPLE GOODS, such as

DINNER-SETS, TEA-SETS, CHAMBER-SETS, DESSERT-SETS, BREAKFAST-SETS.

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STAFFORDSHIRE, LIMOGES, &c.

DRESSES.

DINNER, TEA, AND DESSERT-SETS.

HEADQUARTERS FOR CUT-GLASS.

CHINA FROM ALL COUNTRIES FROM FIRST HANDS.

GEORGE ORSON, JR., 1207 Main Street.

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REMOVAL! REMOVAL!

R. T. ALVAY & CO. have removed their office to 1000 Franklin street (Captain McCubbin's old stand), where they will continue to sell the very best HAY, OATS, &c., MILL-OFFAL, &c., at the lowest prices. Mr. ST. HANCOCK will still remain with us. We are thankful for the liberal patronage bestowed upon us in the past, and hope by fair dealing to merit its continuance.

R. T. ALVAY & CO., ALVAY BROTHERS will still continue the WHOLESALE FEED BUSINESS, 600 East Cary street.

Ja 4-61

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TANNER & DELANEY ENGINE COMPANY.

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WILLIAM E. TANNER, WILLIAM R. TRIGG, President; J. E. DELANEY, Vice-President; ALEXANDER DELANEY, Superintendent. MANUFACTURERS OF STEAM-ENGINES, BOILERS, SAW-MILLS, GIST-MILLS, &c. Also, CASTING AND MACHINERY. Agents for the Southern States for the celebrated Armstrong & Sims AUTOMATIC ENGINE, which is particularly adapted to driving electric machinery, cotton and woolen-mills, and other work requiring great accuracy and regularity of motion and economy in fuel. Send for catalogues. Good experienced agents wanted. Up-town office, 1111 East Main Street, in the State Bank building. de 27-1m

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SEINE-THREAD.

SEINE-THREAD.

We are now receiving A LARGE SUPPLY OF SEINE-THREAD of our own importation. We can now furnish all in used with the BEST QUALITY OF GOODS made at the VERY LOWEST PRICES. We have a full stock of NETTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION made to order at short notice. Sole Importers of the Lion Brand Seine-Thread and Importers of other brands, corner Seventeenth and Franklin streets, de 14

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WE HAVE A LARGE CONSIGNMENT OF

NICE HOOPS

In ladies' need, for sale low.

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1216 Main Street.

Ja 8

DOCKRATINATION.

It is dangerous and hurtful. Offers large losses are sustained for want of prompt action. Putting off for the future, lets give you a bit of advice: For the past three weeks we have announced day by day that we are going to retire from the clothing field of Richmond. This is our last announcement, and the coming